

please return when convenient) you can
do as you think best in the matter
with the certain feeling that I shall

be entirely satisfied to have you ac-
cept my first proposition or either of
Redfield's. And I will further add that I have the
most perfect confidence in your right ^{intention}.

It is proper to say that Martin-
dale has gone to Washington and
only sends a card to say that he
will agree to whatever is decided upon
by Redfield and me.

With a "current of good feeling" and
esteem in which there is no "eddy" what-
ever I am

Yours sincerely

Wm. H. Auden

I ought to say further that if my first
proposition is accepted I am that I ought
to hold Dr. Palmer to no loss on a. of of my
renunciation. If the last set is disposed of
at a loss I must make it up.

Washington May 20th 1887

My Dear Sir,

Yours of yesterday is
at hand. While I sincerely wish
that I had nothing further to write
in the matter of the Palmer plants
I believe that I may have done
you injustice in thought - and in
writing the last note to you. I did
it on the supposition that you knew
all the facts in the case which I
now believe you did not. Very suc-
cinctly they are these; that after the
Pony trouble (in which Dr. Palmer had
no hand) Redfield, Martin-dale & myself,
in order that we might be secure in
our sets of the proposed new collection
arranged with Dr. P. that we should ad-
vance him some money and at the
end pay him any proper sum for

the whole collection, we to take out
such as we wanted and sell or other-
wise dispose of the rest as we might
choose. We concluded afterwards, (I think
at Dr. Gray's suggestion) to let the whole
thing go to Cambridge as several applica-
tions had already been made there for
the ~~new~~ proposed ~~of~~ collection but with the
proper understanding, which, in view of
the then late fiasco was made very strong,
that while we were quite willing that Cam-
bridge should have the first set, Nos. 2,
3 & 4 should without fail come to us.

Now if we had been moved down "one
notch" as Redfield says in order to
let New come in I don't think that
there would have been any objection.
But to humble one of us down to the
foot of the ladder was, I must still
think, an extraordinary proposition.

On the other hand I note what you
say about my correspondence with Dr.

Goodale. That being your motive for
writing you should have mentioned it
as an inducement or excuse; for you
could hardly suppose that I should
know that you and he were familiar
with each other's botanical correspondence.
I am perfectly willing to admit however
that knowing it as I do now, I can
see how your mind might be affected
by the idea of my not wanting to
spend as much money in this way as
formerly; and you will as readily admit
that people may have their own views
as to direction of their retrenchment.
As a matter of fact the flora of the
regions adjacent to our Mexican border
is much more interesting and instructive
to me than that of the West Indies; in
which too I am well supplied already
through B. Mijer, Fendler & others.

Now you have the case before you;
and with Redfield's letter enclosed (which
* received just before your ~~last~~ last came.